

CLEAN COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (amended) An apparatus for the cutting of sheets of metal material, said apparatus comprising:

a first transfer carriage for supporting material to be cut;

a cutting head; and

a pathway along which to move the transfer carriage;

said cutting head and said transfer carriage being movable relative to each other to permit said cutting head to cut profiles of objects lying in a plane;

said carriage being movable between a loading position clear of said cutting head, and a cutting portion in which said carriage presents the material to be cut to said cutting head; and

said path including a portion along which said carriage can by-pass said cutting head.